

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084167

EXDIS

USUN PASS JOHN THOMAS -N.Y. SHERATON -212/247-8000 EXT. 763

BANGKOK ALSO PASS AMBASSADOR DEAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, TH

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

1. THERE ARE PRESENTLY OVER 400 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO BANGKOK. OTHERS ARE LIKELY TO BE ARRIVING IN THAILAND. IN ADDITION, CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS, STUDENTS AND VISITORS WHO FEAR PERSECUTION IF THEY RETURN TO A COMMUNIST CAMBODIA ARE LIKELY TO SURFACE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED TRANSIT VISAS TO CAMBODIANS AND HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT WISHES THESE REFUGEES MOVED FROM THAILAND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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2. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILI-

TATE THE ADMISSION INTO THE UNITED STATES OF CAMBODIANS WHO DO NOT QUALIFY AS IMMIGRANTS. WE HOPE THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE COMPLETED SHORTLY.

3. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM IS NOT ONE FOR U.S. ALONE TO HANDLE. UNHCR AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) AS WELL AS

PRIVATE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN A RESETTLEMENT EFFORT. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE CAMBODIANS IN THAILANMAY HAVE TO BE MOVED BEFORE UNHCR

AND/OR ICEM CAN SWING INTO ACTION, BOTH ORGANIZATIONS CAN BE USEFUL IN THE RESETTLEMENT IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN U.S. OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO SURFACE IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

4. MISSION GENEVA SHOULD APPROACH PROMPTLY ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS BOTH UNHCR AND ICEM AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL. SITUATION SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO BOTH ORGANIZATIONS; THAT WE WISH SOLICIT UNHCR AND ICEM ASSISTANCE IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF CAMBODIANS OUTSIDE OF CAMBODIA WHO NOW APPEAR TO QUALIFY AS REFUGEES WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE UNHCR. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP AN INDICATION OF THE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE THAT BOTH UNHCR AND ICEM ARE PREPARED TO RENDER IN THIS IMMEDIATE SITUATION. U.S. IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY IN ANY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT OR APPEAL BY UNHCR AND ICEM.

5. REPORT RESPONSES BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM. KISSINGER

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